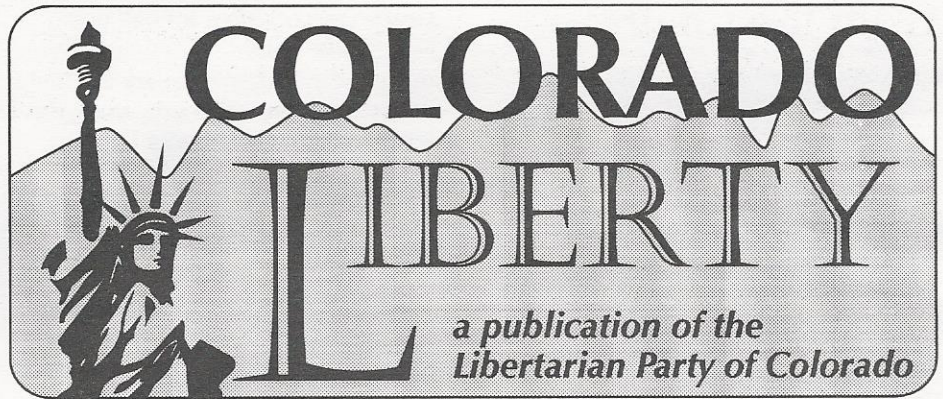


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Volume XIX, Number 2

<http://www.pageplus.com/~lpcolorado/>

February, 1998

Political Action Alert! Help Deconstipate Colorado Politics

By Judd Ptak, Legislative Director
LPCO

Do you enjoy petitioning? Do you look forward to standing in front of a supermarket or going house-to-house asking people to sign a petition?

Me neither. But currently, that is the only way we can get Libertarian candidates on the ballot. Each individual candidate needs to circulate a separate petition and get it signed by hundreds of registered voters from the particular district for which they want to run. This petitioning requirement is our biggest hurdle to running a full slate of candidates.

Fortunately, we have good news from the State Legislature. The House State, Veterans & Military Affairs Committee passed House Bill 98-1110, Minor Political Party Ballot Access, by Representative Ron Tupa, (D-Boulder) out to the full house by an 11-2 vote. This bill will allow the Libertarian party to qualify as a "Minor Political Party" by meeting one of 4 criteria, thus allowing us to nominate candidates at a State Convention or by other procedures which we determine in *our* Constitution.

The only no votes in the State Affairs Committee (as it is known for short) came from Representatives Phil Pankey and Doug Dean.

Thanks to the people who responded to my request to call their Representative and ask them to vote for the bill, three legislators who had

voted against a nearly identical bill last year changed their votes. To those who made the calls I say, "Good job," and please write your legislator a thank you note or call and thank them for their vote.

But having passed the State Affairs Committee is only the first of many steps towards becoming law.

Now comes the part where we need help again. Last year's bill died when the Senate added some unacceptable amendments, and the House refused to go along. The Chairperson of the Senate State Affairs Committee, Mary Ann Tebedo (R-Colorado Springs) has been strongly opposed to the bill. Several other Senators are not supportive either.

Unlike Members of Congress, who get thousands of calls and letters on many issues, State Legislators rarely get more than half a dozen or so letters on any bill before them. There are bills where a single phone call or letter to the right legislator has been the difference between the bill passing and dying in committee. We need you to write that letter or make that call about HB-98-1110, the Minor Political Party Ballot Access bill. This issue will not generate a lot of calls unless *you and I* make them. The good news is this bill is not a big deal to anyone but us, so chances are no one will write opposing it. But we need to let our State Senators know this bill is important to us.

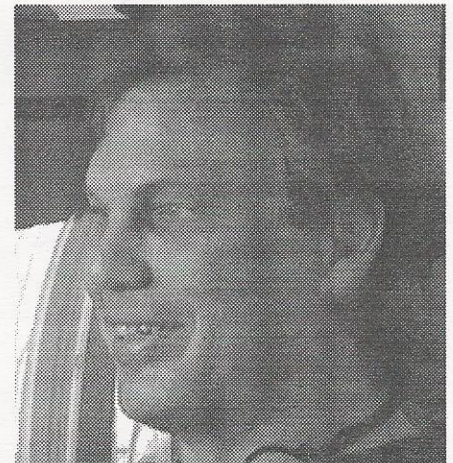
On the mailing label of this issue of the *Liberty* is the number of your

State Senate district. If your State Senate district is not on your mailing label, please call your county clerk or elections office to find out which district you are in and who represents you.

Find your Senator's name and phone number in the list at the end of this article and please write or call him or her **after** February 26, when the Senators start working on House bills, and ask them to please vote for HB-98-1110, the Minor Political Party Ballot Access Bill when it comes before them.

If you don't like writing, and are nervous about talking to politicians, call your Senator's Capitol phone late at night **after** February 26 and leave a message on voice mail. Be sure to

(continued, second column page 2)



Judd Ptak, Legislative Director LPCO

From the Chair

Is the Snowball Gaining Momentum?

This year has been very exciting. We have done more than ever before and received increased media coverage. Have we reached critical mass where we will grow exponentially?

We are attracting new donors and new activists, some of whom are willing to put forth significant funds to see results. People are more willing to become active in and to contribute to a winning organization. The Libertarian Party is on "the Road to Victory" through our work to recruit new members and elect Libertarians to public office.

If you are not yet a dues-paying member please consider becoming one. If you truly believe in the Libertarian Party's philosophy of reducing government to its smallest possible size, you should take action to make that happen:

- Join the Libertarian Party!
- Run for the Colorado State House of Representatives, or work on another candidate's campaign.
- Contribute to the Libertarian Party and to your favorite candidates campaign.
- Collect signatures for the Tax Cut petition and donate your earnings to the Libertarian Party.
- Introduce libertarian ideas to your friends and colleagues.

Silly Season: Lawmakers At Work Making Dumb Laws. Some examples:

- No smoking in your car if there are children present (i.e. Hide that cigarette at all costs; it's better that you car catches fire or that you have an accident rather than go to jail for illegal smoking).
- All pets must be properly restrained during transport in an automobile (i.e. Don't forget to seatbelt your guppies!).
- Helmets required for everyone at all times while engaging in _____ (any activity, you fill in the blank).

This spring you could collect signatures to get a very important TAX CUT on the ballot. You may choose to be paid for each signature you get; you may then donate this pay to the Libertarian Party. Please help now. Call (719) 550-0010 or E-mail taxcutter@msn.com or write to Box 26018, Colorado Springs, CO 80936. See details in the article elsewhere in this issue.

In Liberty,
Sandra Johnson, Chair, LPCO

Deconstipating Politics

(continued from page 1)

make the call *after* February 26. Better yet, write them, call them, *and* write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper now.

Below are a few points to make in your letters or when talking to your State Senator:

- The percentage of people voting and participating in politics is at an all-time low. More choices will help to bring disaffected voters back into the system.
- Political parties like the Libertarians bring new ideas into the political debate, which are then often adopted by the old parties.
- This country was founded on freedom of expression. The political process is part of that expression. Making third parties petition to participate implies that they do not have the same rights as the two major parties.
- Colorado and Washington are the only two states in the western United States which do not allow minor parties to nominate an entire slate of candidates.
- Forcing the candidates of minor parties to petition to get on the ballot, while Democratic or Republican candidates are simply nominated by a party assembly, puts an unfair burden on the minor party candidates.

Please take a few minutes to write a letter, using one or two of these points, or your own ideas, and send it to your State Senator. Then rewrite it as a letter to the editor of your local newspaper. Call your State Senator too. We can pass this bill. If we do, it will save us many thousands of hours of petitioning. We will use the time and energy saved to concentrate on getting out the good news of the restoration of liberty in Colorado.

Thanks in advance for your help.

Dist.	Name	Phone
S01	Don Ament	866-4877
S02	James Rizzuto	866-2587
S03	Bill Thiebaut	866-4878
S04	Ken Chlouber	866-4869
S05	Ginette Gigi Dennis	866-4871
S06	Ben Alexander	866-4884
S07	Tilman M. Bishop	866-3077
S08	Dave Wattenberg	866-5292

S09	Charles Duke	866-4835
S10	Ray Powers	866-4845
S11	Jeffrey Wells	866-3341
S12	Maryanne Tebedo	866-4880
S13	Sally Hopper	866-4873
S14	Peggy Reeves	866-4841
S15	Stan Matsunaka	866-4853
S16	Tom Norton	866-3342
S17	Terry Phillips	866-5291
S18	Dorothy Rupert	866-4872
S19	Jim Congrove	866-4840
S20	Ed Perlmutter	866-4856
S21	Michael Feeley	866-2318
S22	Bill Schroeder	866-4859
S23	Ken Arnold	866-4876
S24	Joan Johnson	866-4863
S25	Bob Martinez	866-4855
S26	Tom Blickensderfer	866-2587
S27	Mike Coffman	866-4883
S28	Elsie Lacy	866-2587
S29	Frank Weddig	866-4879
S30	Richard Mutzebaugh	866-4881
S31	Doug Linkhart	866-4861
S32	Pat Pascoe	866-4852
S33	Gloria Travis Tanner	866-4864
S34	Rob Hernandez	866-4862
S35	Dottie Wham	866-4875

You can write to your senator at this address: Senator Spendin D. Money, State Capitol, Denver, 80203.

Denver LP To Hold Potluck on February 13, Valentine's Eve

By David Aitken

The Denver LP will have the good luck of holding its February potluck supper on Friday, February 13, at my home. All metro area libertarians are invited. While a snowstorm dampened the January potluck's attendance, we saw a couple of new faces: Lois and Dana. Planning for the '98 elections and People's Fair will be on the agenda at February's potluck at my home, 1240 Ogden #4, Denver. Call me at 831-4334 for more information.

If you're interested in what's going on in the legislature, check out the Colorado Libertarian web site, www.pageplus.com/~lpcolorado. You'll see frequent updates on bills we are interested in, including the HB-98-1110 Minor Party Ballot Access bill by Representative Ron Tupa (D-Boulder), described in Judd Ptak's cover story.

Calendar

February, 1998

- 2/3 - Tue - Ft. Collins 1st Tuesday Breakfast Club - 7:00am - Tony's, 224 S. College, Pat Hartman (970) 224-3116
- 2/3 - Tue - Boulder Activists Lunch - noon - Coco's, 28th and Iris, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775.
- 2/4 - Wed - Board of Directors - 7:00pm - LP Office, 720 E 18th Ave #309, Denver, Co 80203, 303-837-9393, all members welcome, public comment 6:45 and 9:00, call for directions.
- 2/5 - Thu. - Jeffco Libertarians - 7:00pm - 8:30pm - Lakewood Library, on 20th Avenue, one light west of Kipling, call Tom Goonan at 303-202-9069
- 2/7 - Sat - Denver Breakfast Group - 8:00am - LePeep, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334.
- 2/10 - Tue - Boulder Activists Lunch - noon - Coco's, 28th and Iris, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775.
- 2/11 - Wed - Boulder LP Board Meeting - 2nd Wednesday - 6:30pm - Trillian's, 30th and Arapahoe, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775.
- 2/13 - Fri - Denver Potluck Supper - 2nd Friday - 7:00pm - home of David Aitken, 1240 Ogden #4, Denver, Co 80218, 303-831-4334. Bring a main dish, side dish, or dessert to share. Drinks, plates, and utensils will be provided. If you don't have any ideas for what to bring, check the deli in your local supermarket.
- 2/14 - Sat - Denver Breakfast Group - 8:00am - LePeep, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334.
- 2/14-21 (including Valentine's Day) Libertarian Cruise: LP National Committee Member Ken Bisson is inviting Libertarians and their friends and family to take a seven-day cruise in the Caribbean. This social event will be hosted by the Northeast Indiana Libertarians on Princess Cruise Lines' "The Love Boat." Prices start at \$964/person. Anyone interested or even somewhat curious about the cruise can

email Ken for more information at kbisson@usa.net . Bon Voyage!

- 2/16 - Mon - Ft. Collins Activists - 3rd Monday - 7:00pm - China Dragon, 1401 W. Elizabeth, Fort Collins. Contact Dan Cochran (970) 667-7557.
- 2/17 - Tue - Boulder Activists Lunch - noon - Coco's, 28th and Iris, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775.
- 2/21 - Sat - Denver Breakfast Group - 8:00am - LePeep, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334.
- 2/24 - Tue - Boulder Activists Lunch - noon - Coco's, 28th and Iris, call Ken Kirkmeyer, 303-774-0775.
- 2/28 - Sat - Denver Breakfast Group - 8:00am - LePeep, Mexico and Colorado Blvd, Denver, call David Aitken, 303-831-4334.

April, 1998

- 4/24-26 - Fri/Sat - LPCO State Convention - Sheraton Denver West Hotel, 360 Union Blvd

July, 1998

- 7/2-5 - National Convention - Washington, DC. (202) 333-0008

Kudos

- Kudos to Warren Kruse for organizing a very successful Denver Candidates' meeting on January 21.
- Kudos to Brian Holthouse for more discounted postage for the *Liberty*.
- Kudos to Jesse Wilkins for working on the LPCO webpage and offering to do webpages for candidates.
- Kudos to Dave Bryant for his superb efforts towards getting out the Lakewood Letter (see page 4).
- Kudos to Ken Riggs for organizing the Future of Freedom Foundation Seminar at the Denver West Marriott on January 24.
- Kudos to Judd Ptak for his outstanding lobbying on HB-98-1110 that resulted in an 11-2 positive vote in the State Affairs Committee.
- Kudos to Ken Kirkmeyer and David Aitken for testifying on behalf of HB-98-1110 before the State Affairs Committee.

"Of course, these sorts of things happen all the time in the Arab world as well, but they are not reported by the media," said Zakaria abu Hiram, an Egyptian magazine editor. "I think what is good about all this is that in the U.S., if the president is shown to be lying, he can be deposed. In this part of the world, these things happen often, but can anyone make such accusations? No. No one meddles in it."

Join Our Hot List!

Would you like to make a BIG impact on the Legislature? Join the Libertarian e-mail list to stay on top of all the action. Please send your e-mail address to DeronD@netlords.com and ask to be added to the Libertarian hot list.

Colorado Liberty

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Libertarians Blast Morton, Anderson

By John McMillin
January 8, 1998

LAKEWOOD—Two leading Lakewood Republicans were targeted by a Libertarian Party mass mailing last week. The mailing claims that Mayor Linda Morton and House Majority Leader Norma Anderson have "betrayed" Republican principles, supporting "obscenely expensive big Government projects usually associated with Democrats."

In the Libertarians' four-page recruitment letter, Morton was blasted for her support of the Guide the Ride mass-transit tax. Anderson was criticized as a backer of that measure, and as a member of the GOP-controlled Legislature whose budgets were assailed as "packed with pork, waste, and bureaucracy."

Local Libertarians said the Lakewood letter was their "most aggressive direct mail recruiting campaign ever," sent to 5,000 "disaffected and disgruntled Republicans." It concludes with a pitch for voters to join "the party of principle," the Libertarian Party.

Contacted at her home in the San Luis Valley, state Libertarian Party Chairwoman Sandra Johnson said, "The Republican leaders in Lakewood seem to be blatantly anti-small government. These Republicans seem to be acting like another wing of the big-government party (the Democrats)."

Johnson said that smaller government works well in her community of Fort Garland (population 300) where residents pay for snow plowing to their mountain homes.

Both Morton and Anderson were eager to respond to the accusations. Both disputed Johnson's definition of Republicanism as a rigid adherence to low taxes and spending, and disagreed with Johnson's statement that, "The more government you have, the less freedom and quality of life you have."

Anderson said she has supported light rail in Denver since 1982. And she was "born a Republican," she added, seeing no contradiction.

Accused by Johnson of seeking to

"gut" the TABOR Amendment, Anderson said that she will seek legislation to allow spending some of the state surplus for road improvements. Colorado's highways are suffering from an overall lack of investment in infrastructure, she said.

"I've driven all over the state, and you can always tell when you cross over the state line," said Anderson. "In transportation, we're leaving a huge debt to our grandchildren."

A Republican President, Dwight Eisenhower, created the Interstate Highway system. That was a costly capital program, said Anderson. "And many Republicans supported DIA, and an increase in the gas tax a few years ago. There are certain things government has to pay for, like police, infrastructure and defense. It's all about public safety."

Lakewood's mayor, the target of most of the Libertarians' accusations, said that the city's electoral system is non-partisan. "That's one of the beauties of local office," she said.

"I am not a Libertarian," Morton declared. But Libertarians should be pleased with her city's record, she added. "We have the lowest sales tax, one of the lowest property taxes, and the mill levy has been frozen for several years. And we have a reputation as a very pro-business community."

Although raised in a Republican family, Morton was a Democrat during her college years, when she felt they were leading the fight nationally for civil rights.

In the early 1980s, as a member of Lakewood City Council, she joined the GOP, switching over at the same time as then-Mayor Linda Shaw. "I felt that the Republican business people had set a very positive course for Lakewood. I truly felt my place was in the Republican Party in this city and this state."

But Morton emphasized that she would not feel at home in any party that "dictates to me what I could stand for." Both she and Anderson support the "big tent" theory of Republicanism, saying that those who feel they are Republicans, are Republicans.

Guide the Ride was backed by other Republicans including RTD Director Bob Tonsing, former gubernatorial candidate Don Bain, and West Chamber officials Tom Murray and Ken Brengle, said Morton.

Not all of Lakewood's GOP leadership drew the Libertarians' criticism. Rep. Penn Pfiffner is one who is "fighting for smaller government most of the time," said Johnson.

The Libertarian Party unequivocally stands for lower taxes, the free market and limited government "at all times and on all issues," said Johnson. "Disaffected Republicans need to know they have another choice."

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The Letter

"That which governs least, governs best."—Henry David Thoreau

December 26, 1997

Dear Republican Friend:

Are you a Republican because you believe in the above statement from one of our first environmentalists, Henry David Thoreau?

Are you a Republican because you believe you can spend your money to care for your family better than any bureaucrat?

Are you a Republican because you believe your elected representatives should stand up for you, the taxpayer?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you may be wondering about your mayor of Lakewood, Republican Linda Morton. She led the drive in favor of the biggest local pork-barrel project since DIA. That's right—your mayor, Linda Morton, was chair of Transit '97, the group that supported "Guide the Ride," RTD's infamous \$16 billion, 67% tax increase.

Is Linda Morton your idea of a Republican?

Many of your fellow Republicans think not. Unlike Linda Morton, they believe in free markets. Unlike Linda Morton, they want you to be able to control your money and your life. Unlike Linda Morton, they want limited government.

When Republicans like you see Republican leaders like Linda Morton advocating obscenely expensive Big Government projects usually associated with Democrats, they feel betrayed.

If you are like many of your fellow Republicans, you may be concerned about what your party stands for—or more importantly, what it doesn't

stand for.

You may also be wondering, "Well, if the Republican Party doesn't support my values any longer, what can I do? Do I have any options?"

The answer is YES, you do have a clear and viable alternative. It is the political party that played a major role in defeating Guide the Ride. It is the political party that consistently stands up for you, the taxpayer. It is the political party that unequivocally stands up for your economic and personal liberty.

Which political party is it? As we're discussing here, it is NOT the Republican Party. It certainly is NOT the Democratic Party.

This party is different.

This party proudly calls itself the "Party of Principle." We'll talk more about this party in a moment, but first a bit more about how your Republican leaders have betrayed you.

It would be one thing if Linda Morton was the only Republican who supported Guide the Ride, but she was not. Republican Mayor Leona Stoecker of Longmont, Republican House Majority Leader Norma Anderson, and Republican Arapahoe County Commissioner Polly Page all betrayed you. They, and many other elected Republicans, supported this ill-conceived \$16 billion dollar pork-barrel project. That's more than THREE DIAS!

Nor is Guide the Ride the only Big Government project supported by Republican legislators. Every year, Colorado's budget grows larger and larger, packed with pork, waste, and bureaucracy.

Republicans have controlled both houses of the Colorado legislature for over two decades.

Yet the budget just keeps on going up and up and up by the absolute maximum allowed by law!

How does it happen? The job of the legislature is to draft the budget. Well, you might think the mission of a Republican-controlled legislature would be to reduce the budget, or at a bare minimum reduce the rate of growth. They betray you year after year.

And there is still more betrayal in the works.

The Rocky Mountain News reported on November 10, 1997 that Colorado Senate President Tom Norton and House Majority Leader

Norma Anderson (both Republicans) are seeking voter approval to gut the Taxpayers' Bill of Rights Amendment (TABOR), which the Party of Principle and concerned citizens like you worked so hard to pass in 1992.

TABOR is what required RTD to ask you, the taxpayer, for permission to spend your money. (Thanks for saying NO!) TABOR is what prohibited the legislature from spending our \$140 million budget surplus. They must give it back to us, the taxpayers. It's our money, not the government's! Yet TABOR is opposed and criticized by many Republicans!

Are you fed up with Republican hypocrisy?

As we've seen right here in Lakewood, as well as across Colorado and the entire nation, the Republican Party no longer supports the values of limited government and low taxes.

Maybe it's time to reevaluate your political standing.

Maybe it's time to think about the unthinkable—changing political parties.

Maybe it's time to join a party that supports you and your values.

We proudly invite you to join America's Party of Principle, the Libertarian Party—the only political party that steadfastly stands for smaller, limited government, and much lower taxes.

If you are not familiar with the Libertarian Party, it strikes very close to home. In fact, the national Libertarian Party was founded 26 years ago, just a few miles up Wadsworth Boulevard in Westminster, by a group of disaffected Republicans. These Republicans grew tired of seeing their party compromise and disavow their principles.

With over 230 officeholders across the country, including several here in Colorado, the Libertarian Party is America's most successful third party since, well, Abraham Lincoln brought the Republican Party to prominence in 1860.

But let's keep the focus on the here and now in Lakewood for a few more moments. As Mayor Morton stated in the October 12th Rocky Mountain News, "The primary opposition to [Guide the Ride] comes from the National Taxpayers Union, the Libertarian Party, and the Independence Institute." (Thanks Linda, we're happy to keep such good company!)

Yes, Mayor Morton, you are right. Many Libertarian volunteers, including three members of the state board of directors, worked very hard to help defeat Guide the Ride. We contributed our time and money. We turned out again and again at rallies. We helped get the word out that Guide the Ride was an obscenely expensive, ill-conceived boondoggle.

By now, you know the results of the election. Guide the Ride went down in flames, big time.

It wasn't even close.

It was the Libertarian Party that helped save you and your fellow citizens \$16 billion!

Yet it was your Republican mayor, Linda Morton, who led the fight in favor of this \$16 billion, 67% tax increase!

It is time to stand up for your

(continued page 8, second column)

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THE 1998 LIBERTARIAN CONVENTION



BUILDING FREEDOM
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360 UNION BLVD. LAKEWOOD, CO

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER
THE FOUNDER OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY

DAVID NOLAN



Learn how it all started twenty-six years ago. David Nolan returns to Colorado, the birth place of the Libertarian Party, for a very special speaking engagement.

ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS

Gene Burns

Nationally syndicated talk show host for over 28 years and professional motivational speaker



Jacob "Bumper" Hornberger

Attorney, Co-founder and Author of the "Future of Freedom Foundation" books

Richard Boddie

Former US Senate candidate, Olympic decathlon athlete and professional motivational speaker



Larry Hoffenberg

Widely published opinions author, technical writer and Colorado's own press release champion

Michael Cloud

Professional speaker, speech writer and author of "The Essence of Political Persuasion" tapes

THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF FREEDOM—SEMINARS

THE PARLOR PULITZER

Writing effective letters to the editor.

DO HERMITS GATHER?

How hermits can make a big impact.

IS THERE SEX AFTER ACTIVISM?

What is the price of being an activist?

WHAT IS THE PRICE OF FREE SPEECH?

Creating and taking advantage of press coverage.

IF PRO IS THE OPPOSITE OF CON...

How government is supposed to work really works.

COLD HEARTED CAPITALISTS

What is true human nature.

WILL ALL THE DEFENDANTS RISE

Defending Jury Rights.

GETTING YOUR LABOR'S WORTH

Free market: barter and investment.

RINGING THE TIN CUP

Fundraising and finance reforms.

STICKS AND STONES MAY BREAK....

Defending the First Amendment

Pre-Registration Form

SHERATON DENVER WEST HOTEL

360 UNION BLVD. LAKEWOOD, CO

Main Events Schedule

Friday April 24

8:00 PM

Early Registration
& Suite Parties

OR

VICTORY 2000's

Comedy Cabaret
with Tim Slagle

Saturday April 25

10:00AM

Keynote Speaker

12:00PM

Awards Luncheon

6:00PM

Cocktail Party

Banquet and Dance

Sunday April 26

10:00AM

Business Meeting

11:00AM

Elections

2:00PM

Guest Speaker

Closing

SAVE \$ 20 UNTIL March 15, 1998

Package (2 day with banquet) price for late registration is \$129.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

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OCCUPATION _____

PHONE _____

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Mail to: 1998 Libertarian Convention 720 East 18 Avenue, #309 Denver, CO 80203 303-837-9393

Federal law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, and occupation and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year.

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Gene A. Cisewski

Chairman of the Liberty Council, CEO of the Monticello Group and member of the Libertarian National Committee

VICTORY 2000

GRASS ROOTS & CAMPAIGNS WORKSHOP

Richard Boddie

Hon. Don Gorman

Former member of the New Hampshire House of Representatives

Hon. Bonnie Flickinger

Former mayor and current city council member of Marino Valley, California

You Can Both Make Money and Cut Your Taxes

by Douglas Bruce

Do you want a \$25 tax cut on these state and local tax bills?

- UTILITY TAXES (each telephone, pager, gas, electric, cable TV tax, etc.)
- VEHICLE TAX (each yearly vehicle tax—it is not being spent on roads)
- INCOME TAX (saving \$25 means even more to low-income workers)
- PROPERTY TAXES (tax relief for homeowners, seniors, small businesses)

The state must legally replace local tax cut revenue. Tax cuts will increase \$25 next year, then \$50 yearly, but only if remaining state revenue grows \$200 million or more each year.

Tax cuts mean more money for your family and more freedom for your future. Because there is no decline in public revenue, there is no loss of public services. Tax cuts will limit wasteful spending simply by slowing government's growth rate about 1% a year.

29 states have cut taxes. Now it's Colorado's turn. Tax cuts will help families and strengthen our economy. Instead of America's 6th highest local taxes, an \$11.8 BILLION state budget (growing \$800 million a year), tax loopholes for insiders, social engineering, and wasteful, corrupting hand-outs, all Colorado citizens deserve honest, simple, fair tax relief.

Official 1998 ballot title:

"Shall there be an amendment to the Colorado constitution concerning the establishment of a \$25 tax cut to lower each tax bill for each 1999 state and local government: utility customer tax and franchise charge, vehicle ownership tax, yearly income tax, and specified property tax, and, in connection therewith, increasing the tax cut by \$25 the next year and \$50 yearly thereafter; requiring monthly state replacement of affected local revenue within tax and spending limits and yearly state audits of such limits; awarding mandatory legal fees and costs to successful plaintiffs only; and allowing a delay in yearly increases in one or more tax cuts if remaining yearly state revenue from all sources will grow less than \$200 million?"

YES!

If you want a tax cut, join us!

Help us collect signatures to get this tax cut on the ballot. You may donate your time or choose to be paid for each signature you get; you may then donate this pay to the Libertarian Party. Please help now. Call (719) 550-0010 or E-mail taxcutter@msn.com or write to Box 26018, Colorado Springs, CO 80936.

The Lakewood Letter

(continued from page 5)

beliefs. The Republican Party has abandoned and repudiated them. It's up to concerned citizens like you to send them a message—a loud and clear message that you want limited government, individual liberty, and lower taxes, not multi-billion dollar boondoggles and evermore-intrusive government.

There is only one person who can send that message: you. Along with your fellow concerned Republicans, you can send that message by re-registering to vote as a Libertarian. By joining the Libertarian Party, you send the only message that the Republican Party understands. When they see longtime Republicans joining the Libertarian Party because "Republican" politicians have abandoned your principles, they will get the message.

You do have another choice.

Perhaps you have been a Republican since you were old enough to vote. Maybe you are reluctant to abandon the party you have belonged to for years. That is understandable. But consider this: you will not be the first Republican to join the Libertarian Party, because the Libertarian Party was founded by a group of disaffected Republicans!

And you certainly will not be the last to switch. Millions of your fellow Republicans are fed up!

It takes only a minute to change your party affiliation. Simply fill out the enclosed voter registration form, check the box labeled "Other," write in "Libertarian," and drop it in the mail to the Jefferson County Clerk.

Then, take another minute and write a \$25 check to the "Libertarian Party of Colorado" and become a dues-paying member of the party. Better yet, send \$50, \$100, whatever you can contribute, and help us send a letter like this to more Republicans like you.

Mayor Morton will notice. Repre-

sentative Anderson will notice. State Senate President Norton will notice. Joint Budget Committee Chairman Tony Grampas will notice.

Most importantly, YOU will notice.

As a member of the Party of Principle, you will join others who are genuinely committed to smaller government and lower taxes. You will notice the Libertarian Party working to preserve all of your freedoms.

You can call or write to Republican headquarters until you are blue in the face. But until you can get their attention, they will not notice. They will not change. As long as you are a registered Republican, as long as you vote Republican, and as long as you contribute to Republican campaigns, they will not change.

The "2 x 4" you need to get this recalcitrant mule's attention is right here in front of you. Join the Libertarian Party. They will notice.

Please help us return America to its original vision of limited government. Join the Libertarian Party today!

Yours in Liberty,

Sandra Johnson Chair, Libertarian Party of Colorado

PS: Look at it this way, you are not leaving the Republican Party. They have already left you! Even Michael Reagan, son of perhaps the most beloved Republican president, has resigned from the Republican Party. What are you waiting for? Register Libertarian today!

PPS: Your \$25 membership in the Libertarian Party amounts to just seven cents a day. Won't you please help us send a loud and clear message for much smaller government and much lower taxes?

PPPS: Want to know more about the Libertarian Party? Call our special toll-free number 800-682-1776 and request our free, 24-page information package. You'll learn all about what we stand for and how we agree with you!

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John Pfuetze

1816 E. Mineral Ave.
Littleton, CO 80122

Dear Uncle Roy:

by Judd Ptak, Legislative Director,
LPCO replying to Governor Romer's
State of the State address

Character, Community, Investment.

These are three of the buzzwords which you like to use in speaking about the State of Colorado. Yes, Governor, the character of individual Coloradans is the key to our future. Yes, Governor, our communities have declined and we need to revive them. Yes, Governor, we need to invest in our state, both in the physical infrastructure and the infrastructure of the minds of future Coloradans. But we need to ask: what is the best way to build the character of ourselves and our children. What is the key to building strong communities?

In an age where we are changing from a resource economy to an information economy, where should we invest limited funds? Governor, you have put your finger on some of the most important issues facing Colorado today, but your ideas for addressing them are outmoded.

How do we expect our citizens to have strong character when our government breaks its promises to them? How can we expect people to be honest and have faith in our government when our judges routinely lie to jurors about the proper role of the jury and usurp the right of the jury to determine the validity of evidence?

What kind of example do you give when you lose a ballot issue election (Guide the Ride), and immediately call for the reorganization of the government body (RTD Board of Directors) responsible for the issue?

How can we instill values of fair play in our citizens, when old party politicians like yourself stack the political playing field against independents and new party candidates? Yes Governor Romer, the character of our citizens has declined since our soldiers stood firm at Bastogne. The blame lies squarely on government.

You say we should think of serving a bigger entity: the Community. You are absolutely right. But how can we serve the community when we are working two jobs so we can pay nearly 50% of our earnings in taxes? How can we serve the community when we need a license for every

activity? When the kitchen we cook our own food in is not good enough to cook for the homeless?

Do you really believe that the "bricks and mortar" of a community are bricks and mortar? I believe it is the individual people who live in a community who are the bricks, and the voluntary relationships between them which are the mortar. But Government weakens both individuals and the links between them.

What about zoning regulations which prohibit people from living near where they work? From having a business which serves the residents of a neighborhood? What do they do for their community, Governor?

It is fashionable in the political circles you run in to claim that individualism and community are mutually exclusive. It is fashionable to decry the rugged individualist pioneer farmers and ranchers and miners as the worst of anti-community characters, relics of a bygone era best left unlamented. I suggest you walk around one of our old farming or mining towns. Look for the oldest building. Usually it is a church or the meeting hall of a fraternal lodge. Sometimes it is a barn, put up for a new settler by the neighbors. These are all examples of strong individuals working together, voluntarily. Those horrible old rugged individualists built barns together, voluntarily. Yes, Governor Romer, our communities are hurting. The blame lies squarely on government.

There are more choices to be made than more government schools or more government roads. The people should make them, individually. You compared the ship of state to an oil tanker, which takes Herculean effort to turn or stop. You compared the new Digital Age economy to a hover craft zipping by the oil tanker. Great metaphor, Governor—even though you probably didn't intend it, what this really means is that if Colorado is going to compete in the new economy, we cannot rely on the *Exxon Valdez* of government to direct our "investments."

Instead, we individual Coloradans need to use our knowledge to make our own choices every day with the dollars we earn and which are rightfully ours. We need to shrink the bloated ship of state, not put more money into it.

Yes, Governor Romer, our infrastructure is crumbling. The blame lies squarely on government. Every government program we add means money invested for political reasons instead of sound financial reasons. Every social function government usurps weakens our communities. Every government handout weakens the character of our citizens. It is time to look for a different way to solve our problems.

If government is not the answer to our problems, how should we go about solving them? What should the State Legislature be doing during the 1998 Session? Here are a few suggestions.

1) Surplus Revenue/Taxes: Last year's surplus revenue, and the projected future surpluses, have politicians salivating. They refuse to recognize two important facts. First, tax money belongs to those who earn it. The government does not produce wealth, it only steals it. All taxes are theft. Second, the people of Colorado enacted the TABOR Amendment (Amendment 1) because they want to force government to prioritize and downsize. That's right, we voted for TABOR, petitioned for TABOR, and donated to TABOR because we sincerely want smaller government. You, Governor, think government needs the money. The taxpayers need it more, and will invest it more wisely. We need the biggest, broadest based tax cut possible. Eliminate not just the "surplus" revenues, but entire departments; desocialize our roads and airports and buses. Back in the 1960's, when a certain New England state increased Sales taxes to the astronomical amount of 6%, it earned the nickname "Taxachusetts." Today, many of our communities are already collecting over 7% sales tax. We're living in Taxorado! It is past time to seriously downsize government. We need to reevaluate the functions of government, and eliminate those which can be done privately, or should not be done at all.

Due to space restraints in this issue of the Colorado Liberty, we will continue Judd's suggestions to the Legislature in the March issue.

Why Clinton's Morals Seem Important

By Harry Browne

Q. Why do people care about the private behavior of a president or any political candidate?

A. Because it seems to be the only area in which one politician differs from another.

If there were significant differences among politicians — differences that affected our lives materially — we would focus on those differences and their private behavior would be irrelevant.

If Bill Clinton had reduced government to a fraction of its present size, making it possible to repeal the income tax and replace it with nothing, we might be distressed that he's sexually obsessed, but we wouldn't dream of trading him for a business-as-usual opponent.

If he had freed us from the Ponzi scheme called Social Security, we probably would look the other way when his hand is caught in the cookie jar.

If he had put a stop to the insane War on Drugs, freeing American cities from the criminal gangs financed with black-market drug profits, we might not even mind that he seems to be a congenital liar.

But he hasn't done anything to get government out of our lives. Nor has the Republican Congress. And since neither party offers to improve our lives significantly, we really have no self-interest in favoring one over the other. So we choose up sides based on such things as character and morals — even though Ronald Reagan, a man of apparent good character, did no more to get government out of our lives than Bill Clinton, an obvious rogue.

Do you think there's an important difference between the two parties? Consider one example: Clinton proposed to take a health-care system made sick by 30 years of government intervention and make it even sicker with a massive makeover. The Republicans fought it, defeated it, gained control of Congress, and proceeded to enact the Clinton plan piece by piece.

On issue after issue — raising the minimum wage, censoring the Internet, bailing out Mexico, and on and on — the Republicans and Democrats argue strenuously and then copy each other. Republican Congressmen accuse Clinton of stealing their ideas, even as they plagiarize all the pork-barrel policies of the Democratic Congress.

With no real difference between them, the two parties taunt each other like children, probe for weaknesses, and try to catch each other in contradictions — looking to put some points on the scoreboard and win the next election.

Meanwhile government gets bigger, more expensive, more intrusive, more destructive, and more dangerous.

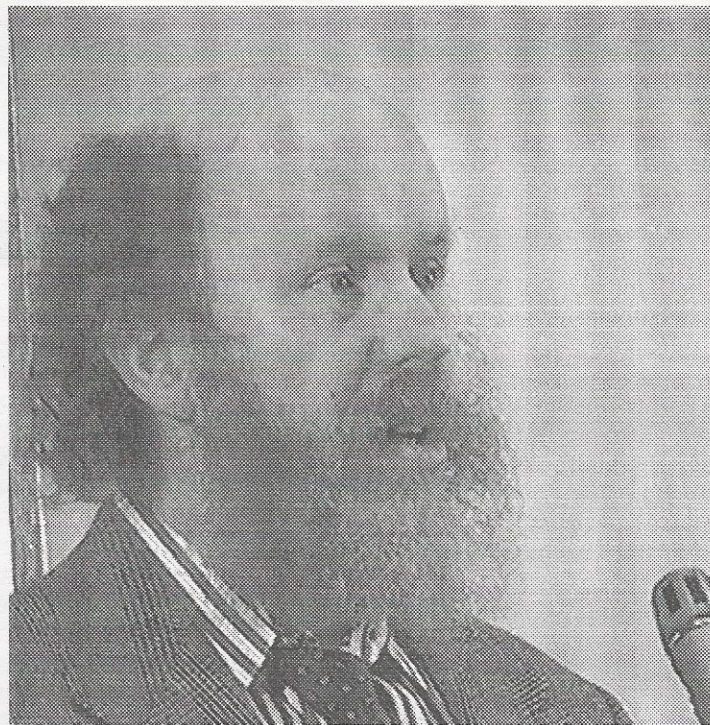
The twin parties have become so hopelessly corrupted by power and the perks of governing that our only hope is a third party still too young, healthy, and principled to be infected by their dishonesty and political extortion.

So I'm pleased that the Libertarian Party is growing rapidly in size and resources — and may even be a major force for much smaller government by the 2000 elections.

Until then we're reduced to watching the politicians trying to score points at each other's expense — and wondering whether the latest Clinton scandal was caused by genuine misbehavior or by politics.

Tell me honestly, does it really matter which is the case?

This commentary is from the Harry Browne 2000 electronic mailing list. New subscribers are always welcome. To subscribe, send a message to <listserv@mail.HarryBrowne2000.org> with the words <join LibertyWire yourname@youraddress> in the message area.



James Bovard, speaking at a Future of Freedom Foundation seminar on January 25 said, "The sign on Clinton's desk reads 'I'm the buck, the doe stops here.'"

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Western Colorado Libertarians
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Candidate Recruiters

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4841 Raleigh St., Denver CO 80212

U.S. Congressional District 2
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U.S. Congressional District 3
Carol Stuckey Hill (719) 486-3130
424 East 11th, Leadville CO 80461

U.S. Congressional District 4
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Vacant and available; to volunteer, contact Doug Anderson
at (303) 698-2651

U.S. Congressional District 6
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